



February 24, 2026

Senator Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Senate Budget & Tax Committee  
3 West Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**FAVORABLE SUPPORT – SB 668 Children's Cabinet Fund - Renaming and Funding for Grants to Local Management Boards**

Dear Chair Guzzone & Members of the Budget & Tax Committee,

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards (MALMB), representing all 24 Local Management Boards (LMBs across Maryland’s counties and Baltimore City), thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to Maryland’s children, youth, and families. Local Management Boards serve as the state’s local collaboration hubs—neutral conveners that bring together education, health, housing, workforce, behavioral health, juvenile services, and community-based organizations to address complex challenges facing families. Through local needs assessments, asset mapping, and coordinated strategies, LMBs ensure that state and local investments reach those who need them most, efficiently and equitably.

We write to respectfully request a multi-year investment to restore funding to the Children’s Cabinet Interagency Fund (CCIF), the primary funding source that supports all 24 LMBs statewide. Since 2011, CCIF funding has declined from \$47 million to approximately \$21 million in FY2026—despite significant growth in demand, responsibilities, and complexity of need. This funding level is now spread thin across every jurisdiction and is no longer sustainable. To stabilize and strengthen this essential infrastructure, MALMB requests a phased, multi-year investment as follows:

- **A \$3 million increase in FY2027**
- **A \$2 million increase in FY2028, FY2029, and FY2030**

This approach would restore CCIF funding to \$30 million by FY2030 and provide predictable, sustainable support for local systems serving Maryland’s most vulnerable children and families. The impact of LMBs is both measurable and proven. Prior to the pandemic, LMBs served more than 212,000 Marylanders statewide. During the pandemic, that number surged to over 530,000 individuals—a 150 percent increase. While emergency conditions have eased, the elevated need has not. Economic pressures, federal funding uncertainty, and persistent inequities continue to

place extraordinary demand on local systems. Notably, LMBs leverage approximately \$3 in value for every \$1 of state investment, maximizing the impact of limited public dollars.

Increased CCIF funding would directly advance Maryland's broader policy goals, including long-term implementation of the ENOUGH Act, by strengthening local capacity to reduce child poverty and expand economic mobility. Additional funding would also support innovation and modernization through local dashboards and real-time data tools, expand youth development and mentoring initiatives, enhance cross-system collaboration, and ensure equitable access to services for rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. Just as importantly, it would preserve the flexibility and rapid-response capacity that proved essential during the pandemic and remains critical as new challenges emerge.

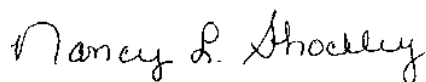
We recognize the fiscal challenges that the state is navigating in this budget cycle. However, investing in LMBs is an investment in Maryland's future—one that helps reduce child poverty, enhance economic mobility, and strengthen our communities. We urge you to support this request for an additional \$3 million in FY2027 and a phased multiyear investment through FY2030 to ensure we can continue delivering vital services to Maryland's children, youth, and families.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this request further and to continue partnering with your Administration to build a stronger, more equitable Maryland.

Sincerely,



Kim Eisenreich  
MD Association of Local  
Management Boards, Co-Chair



Nancy Shockley  
MD Association of Local  
Management Boards, Co-Chair